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2005 BURLEY, WHEAT ACREAGE DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY

Tennessee producers intend to plant more corn, cotton, and soybeans and less sorghum and burley tobacco, based on the March Agricultural Survey conducted by Tennessee Agricultural Statistics. Winter wheat seeded last fall is also expected to be down dramatically from a year earlier. Dark-type tobacco acreage is expected to remain steady, while hay acres are projected to decline. “The survey results show only what producers intend to do as of March 1,” stated State Director Debra Kenerson, “Changes in prices, production costs, and weather conditions will be major factors in determining what farmers actually choose to produce this year.”

Prospective **soybean** acreage, at 1.22 million acres, is up slightly from a year ago and the highest in six years. Planted acreage of **corn** is forecast at 690,000 acres, 1 percent above 2004. The 2005 **sorghum** acreage is forecast at 15,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from the previous year and the lowest since records began being kept in 1929. Tennessee’s **cotton** acreage is forecast at 570,000 acres, up 8 percent from 2004 and the highest since 2001. **Winter wheat** seedings for the 2005 season totaled 270,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from December and 32 percent less than last year. This is the lowest acreage in over twenty-five years when only 260,000 acres were sown for the 1978 crop. **Hay** producers intend to harvest an estimated 1.92 million acres, 15,000 acres less than in 2004.

The State’s **burley** tobacco area for harvest in 2005 is forecast at 19,000 acres, down 24 percent from the previous year and the lowest level since 1922. Other tobacco types grown in Tennessee all show no change in potential acreage for the 2005 planting season: Type 22 **Eastern dark-fired** acreage is forecast at 5,300 acres; Type 23 **Western dark-fired**, is forecast at 420 acres; and Type 35 **dark air-cured**, is forecast at 540 acres.

Asian Soybean Rust: The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the March Agricultural Survey in all states each year. Randomly selected farmers across the United States were asked what they intend to plant during the upcoming season for a number of crops, including soybeans. Due to the discovery of Asian soybean rust in the United States and the heightened speculation of how growers would react to the fast spreading, yield reducing disease, questions were included in the March Agricultural Survey to measure farmer awareness of Asian soybean rust and how its discovery has effected their planting decisions for the 2005 crop. Results of the Asian Soybean Rust questions for **Tennessee** are as follows:

- One-fourth of the State’s farmers had seen, read, or heard information about the disease.
- Eighty-five percent of Tennessee farms reporting soybean intentions had seen, read, or heard about the disease.
- Ninety-four percent of the State’s soybean farmers replied that Asian Rust was not a factor in their planting intentions.
- Of the six percent of producers who indicated Asian soybean rust was a factor in their planting intentions, 66 percent plan to decrease their intended acreage, while only 1 percent increased their intentions.

Planted Acreage, 2003-2004 and Intended 2005, Tennessee and United States

Crop	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2005/2004	2003	2004	2005 ¹	2005/2004
Tennessee				Percent	United States			
	1,000 Acres				1,000 Acres			Percent
Corn	710	680	690	101	78,603	80,930	81,413	101
Sorghum	45	20	15	75	9,420	7,486	7,400	99
Winter wheat	430	400	270	68	45,384	43,350	41,613	96
Soybeans	1,150	1,210	1,220	101	73,404	75,208	73,910	98
Cotton, all	560	530	570	108	13,479.6	13,658.6	13,815.0	101
Tobacco, all ²	31.14	31.26	25.26	81	411.15	409.06	319.86	78
E. Dark-fired (22)	5.20	5.30	5.30	100	7.80	8.00	8.30	104
W. Dark-fired (23)	0.40	0.42	0.42	100	2.90	2.92	3.02	103
Burley (31)	25.00	25.00	19.00	76	152.30	154.65	108.30	70
One-sucker (35)	0.54	0.54	0.54	100	2.84	2.84	2.84	100
Hay ²	2,030	1,935	1,920	99	63,383	61,916	62,940	102

¹ Intended plantings for 2005. ² Acres harvested.

